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Poisoning From Honey.

The old saying that every sweet has its bitter might be accompanied by the statement that honey sometimes contains the most active and dangerous poisons. A case in point is related in a medical review as follows: A man and his wife ate honey. They took but a little, as they observed a horrid stinging of the mouth and throat as soon as the honey was swallowed. Within a few minutes both were taken ill. There were nausea, severe pain and vomiting, then a loss of consciousness, pallor of the extremities, feeble action of the heart and collapse. No pulse could be detected. The wife remained insensible for several hours, but the husband was not entirely restored until the following day. Even then strength returned very slowly, and there was every indication of extreme exhaustion. A portion of the honey was treated chemically, and an extract was given to two cats; to one a small dose and to the other a large dose was administered.

The small one produced partial exhaustion, relaxation of the voluntary muscles and general depression. The large one took effect almost immediately, producing relaxation, vomiting, purging, prostration and almost complete loss of control over the voluntary muscles. The cat did not regain its normal condition for several hours.

A fairly thorough examination of the honey was made in order, if possible, to discover the nature of the poisonous element. No positive conclusion was arrived at, but the chemist was reasonably satisfied that the rhododendron and a few other plants of that class contained the objectionable substance. It is also stated that plants belonging to the heath family have been by some writers looked upon with apprehension, for the reason that they have been suspected of harboring the toxic qualities which accounted for the case of honey poisoning.—New York Ledger.

With Burgoyne at Saratoga.

In 1781 an officer who had served with Burgoyne wrote a volume, which he called "Travels Through the Interior Parts of America, in a Series of Letters." The writer was Thomas Anbrey, captain of the British army, and his memoirs, who was with Burgoyne at his surrender. In Macmillan's Magazine there is an excellent notice of Captain Anbrey's work, and the conditions of the British soldiers in this campaign. Burgoyne's army was steadily diminishing, while the odds round it were surely tightening. All day and night from the surrounding woods whistling the bullets of the American riflemen. The soldiers were so tired, they were told, that they ate and slept under the stars, and the dreary howl of wolves, attracted by hundreds to such an unwelcome banquet. The American sharpshooters were naturally in their element upon the steep sides of the wooded ravines that formed such a feature in every battle and skirmish. The longest foray beyond the lines in the distance from the hills of the British infantry—there was no room or place for it. The soldiers had nothing but discipline and their native valor to make up for their immense inferiority in the use of the rifle to most of their foes, not to mention the fact that they were not to require Anbrey's testimony to realize what a hopeless cause was this in which Burgoyne's army now found themselves for the conduct of warfare upon European systems. For ourselves, we have always marveled at the fashion in which the British soldier of that day, half starved and ridiculously clothed, fought his way through snows or numbers of his own rank as well as armed as he, better marksmen and familiar with the wild woods which to him must have been strange and terrible.

The "Ears" of Insects.

The naturalists have not yet been able to answer the burning question, Can insects hear? But their researches along that line have resulted in many queer discoveries. Simply because a bug has no ears on the sides of his head it is no sign whatever that he is wholly without some sort of an auditory nerve. This last assertion is proved by the fact that grasshoppers, crickets, locusts and flies all have their ears situated in queer places—under the wings, on the middle of the body and even on the sides of their legs. The common house fly does his hearing by means of some little rows of corpuscles which are situated on the knobbed threads which occupy the place which are taken up by the hind wings of other species of insects. The garden slug or shell-less snail has his organs of hearing situated on each side of his neck, and the common grasshopper has them on each of his broad, flat thighs. In some of the smaller insects they are at the bases of the wings, and in others on the bottom of the feet.—St. Louis Republic.

Great Drunkards.

The question as to whether great men are ever drunkards must be answered in the affirmative, though argument is frequently made to the contrary. Cato was a hard drinker, while, in the language of one writer, old Ben Jonson was constantly "pickled." The poet Savage used to go on the hardest kinds of "tears," and Rogers observed, after seeing his own statue, "It is the first time I have seen him stand straight for many years." Byron says of Porson, the great classical scholar, "I can never recollect him except as drunk or brutal, and generally both." Keats was on a spree once that lasted six months. Horace, Plato, Aristophanes, Euripides, Aeschylus, Socrates and Tasso of the old times and Goethe, Schiller, Addison, Pitt, Fox, Blackstone, Fielding, Sterne and Steele were all hard drinkers at intervals.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

His Mental Burden.

"Where do we go tonight, Henry?" "I don't know, Agnes. I've had something awful on my mind all day, but I can't remember whether it is a progressive encephalopathy or the Browning class."—Chicago Record.

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A Clever Knave.

While a well-to-do Parisian was returning recently by train from Havre, during the first hour his only fellow passenger in the compartment was a young man who made himself very agreeable. Then others got in, and talk was general. Finally the Parisian dropped asleep. Presently the young man, turning to the other passengers with a wink toward the sleeping man, said in an undertone: "I'll play a good joke on my uncle." And he unrolled the strap by which a small traveling bag was slung over the shoulder of the sleeper. "I'll change into the next compartment at the first stop, and my uncle will wake up and think he has been robbed. It will be fun to see his face, and I can watch through the little glass in the partition. Don't give it away." The others grinned appreciatively, and the young man presently slipped out with the bag.

Soon after the owner of the bag woke up. He missed his pouch from the strap and jumped up in great excitement, exclaiming, "I've been robbed!" The response of his fellow passengers was a roar of laughter. This added anger to the thief's excitement, and he started furiously. Finally one of the passengers assured the angry man that his bag was all right; his nephew had it in the next compartment. "My nephew!" shouted the bewildered man. "I haven't any nephew. I never had a nephew. I don't know anything about any nephew." Then it was the turn of the other passengers to be dumfounded. But the thief got away, and there were several thousand francs in the bag.—Paris Letter.

Nourishing Gruels.

Nourishing gruels are always in demand for delicate persons as well as for those who are recovering from illness. A gruel put into a pan over the fire a quart of boiling water, add to it 2 tablespoonfuls of oatmeal, stirring all the while. When well mixed pour the mixture and place it at the back of the fire, where it will simmer for two hours. Season with salt enough to make it palatable and sweeten it if desired. Strain it through a medium fine sieve. To a small teacup two-thirds full of this hot gruel add a teaspoonful of cream when serving it to an invalid. Indian meal gruel is made by mixing 9 level tablespoonfuls of meal with half a spoonful of flour, stirring into the dry ingredients half a cup of cold water before mixing them with a quart of boiling water. Let this mixture cook slowly at the back of the fire two hours, stirring it occasionally to prevent its sticking to the bottom of the pan. Season generously with salt, a very little sugar and a suspicion of nutmeg. This gruel should also be served with cream, like the oatmeal gruel.—Chicago Times Herald.

Two of Tait's Stories.

The late archbishop of Canterbury had two secretaries to tell. Two are recalled by his private secretary, Mandeville B. Phillips, in some personal reminiscences, which he contributes to the London Sunday Magazine. One concerned Archbishop Tait's coachman, who was a very original character. One day a clergyman who called at the palace asked him whether he had still as much to do as ever. The answer was smiling. "There's always a good deal to do, sir, but it's been a trifle easier since we took young Mr. Parry into the business." The Right Rev. Edward Russell had recently been appointed bishop of Salisbury. Another of the archbishop's stories, also of a coachman, will be new to many. A gentleman living in the neighborhood of Adlington, finding that the stableman was not in the habit of attending church, spoke to his coachman about it. "They ought to go," he said. "That's just what I say myself," was the rejoinder. "I says to them, 'Look at me. I go. And what harm does it do me?'"

An Eccentric Cheaply Won.

"Boss," said the man, "give me 2 cents." The man appeared in his pocket, and a smile appeared on the beggar's face. "I'm afraid," said the man, feeling around among the coins in his pocket, "that I can't give you [the smile on the beggar's face disappeared and a sober look took its place] 2 cents. I think I'll have to give you [the sober look was now turned into a broad smile] 5 cents." "Boss," said the beggar, "you're a brick."—New York Sun.

Needles.

Needles are all made by machinery. The piece of mechanism by which the needle is manufactured takes the rough steel wire, cuts it into proper lengths, slices the point, flattens the head, pierces the eye, then sharpens the tiny instrument and gives it that polish familiar to the purchaser. There is also a machine by which needles are counted and placed in the papers in which they are sold, these being afterward folded by the same contrivance.

A Living Record.

A white man sued a black man in Natal the other day, and while the trial was proceeding the litigants came to an amicable settlement. The counsel for the plaintiff announced this circumstance to the court. "The agreement must be in writing," said the judge. "We have it here in black and white," replied the counsel, pointing to the parties. "What more is necessary?"—Scottish Nights.

You have noticed when you have been in England that all the bank notes are always clean and fresh, that most of them are. Well, the reason is this: The Bank of England burns the ones received and issues new ones. The average life of a bank note is only five or six days.

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Wired Glass.

As the result of a thorough investigation of the heat resisting qualities of wired glass, the Philadelphia Fire Underwriters' Association has made a report which must be very serviceable to all interested in this unique product. The report declares that such glass can be safely used in skylights and in such situations will stand a severe fire and not give way when water is thrown on it. A wooden framing for skylight, covered with tin, all seams lock jointed and with narrow hidden, is superior in fire-resisting quality to iron framing. Wired glass in wooden sash, covered with tin, all seams lock jointed and with narrow hidden, can safely be used for windows toward an external exposure and in fire doors to elevator shafts and stairway towers, where it is necessary to light the shafts in office buildings, hotels, etc., where it is undesirable to have elevator shafts entirely inclosed and dark, wired glass permanently built into a brick or terra cotta shaft, or arranged in a metal covered wood frame, can safely be used, and, again, wired glass plates, securely fastened in standard fire shutters, can safely be used toward an external exposure—in this case, the fact that a possible fire in a building all the windows of which are protected by fire shutters is much more readily to be detected from the outside through the wired glass is important.—New York Sun.

Old Greek Painters.

The methods of these ancient days were totally different from those of the present day and were evidently vastly more durable. Panels of wood were used to paint on, eyes, eyebrows, also a scale of paper mache, and occasionally they were formed by gluing three thicknesses of canvas together. These panels were usually about 14 inches long by 7 inches wide. The artist used liquid wax instead of oil to mix the colors, which were made, not from vegetable, but from mineral substances, and were of marvelous brilliancy and permanence. Blue, powdered lapis lazuli, green malachite, red oxide of iron, etc. The colors were laid on in patches, somewhat after the fashion of a mosaic, and afterward blended with an instrument called the ostrum, which appears to have been a lance shaped spatula, long handled, with at one end a curved point, at the other a finely dented edge. With the toothed edge the wax could be equalized and smoothed, while the point was used for placing high lights, marking lips, eyebrows, etc.

The final process, which gives the name encaustic to this kind of painting, was the burning in of the colors. This was done by the application of a heated pointed brush, through George Elers believes that in Egypt the heat of the sun was probably all that was needed to complete the artist's work.—Monthly Illustrator.

Rosini's Laziness.

Rosini was one of the most indolent of men, and in his younger days used to do most of his composing in bed. Once he had almost completed a trio when the sheet fell out of his hand and went under the bed. He could not reach it, and rather than get up, he wrote another. The lady man, if he works at all, does so by spurts, and Rosini, working against time, wrote "The Barber of Seville" in 18 days. When Donizetti was told of this, he remarked, "It is very possible—he is a slave!" The overture to the "Gazza Ladra" was written under curious circumstances. On the very day of the first performance of the opera a note of the overture was written, and the manager, getting hold of Rosini, confined him in the upper loft of La Scala, setting four scene shifts on guard over him. These took the sheets as they were filled and threw them out of the windows to copyists beneath.

Nansen's Fram.

Nansen invented the model of the Fram, making her hull round and slippery, like an eel with no corners or sharp edges for the ice to seize upon. She is the strongest vessel ever used in arctic exploration. He said that pressure would simply lift her on the ice, and so her bottom, near the keel, was made almost flat in order that she might not capsize while on the ice surface, and her screw and rudder were also ingeniously protected. The many experts who said her design would not save the Fram from instant destruction were mistaken, for she met these resistless ice pressures, and they merely lifted her out of her cradle, and she floated safely on the surface.

Paper Floors.

Paper floors are manufactured at Einsiedeln, Germany. In the form of a paste mass the paper is spread upon the surface to be covered, and submitted to pressure. It behaves like plaster of paris, and is said to be noiseless under the foot and particularly effective in preserving a uniform temperature. Having no joints, it presents a perfectly smooth surface.

Safe.

"I heard you fought a duel with Parker?" "I did." "When?" "You afraid to stand up before a loaded pistol?" "Not with Parker holding it. I'm insured in his company."—London Tit-Bits.

Why They Object.

"Why do your parents object to me, Longshot?" "Edit—Mamma objects to his shortcomings and papa to his long stayings."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Great extents of country have been planted with fir and juniper trees by the thrushes and other small birds which feed upon the seed.

According to the Moslem law the locust was "clean" and might be eaten by the Jews.

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1841—1897.

The Pope's Army. The present army of the pope is composed of five bodies, the Noble guard, the command of Prince Altieri, consisting of about 60 young men; the Swiss guard, numbering 100 young men; the Papal guard, numbering about 100 privates and 17 officers; the gendarmes, numbering 100 men, and the French, who are classed as soldiers, partly because they are in a state of chronic feud with the Swiss guard. The pontifical army has also an official newspaper, published weekly, edited by ex-pontifical officers, under the patronage of the so-called minister of the army and entitled La Fedelta Cattolica (Catholic Loyalty). It publishes deaths, promotions, changes, but of course for 26 years has not been able to record acts of valor.—New York Tribune.

An Eskimo Child. A little Eskimo child will bite through the skin of a walrus as easily as an English child will bite an apple, although the skin of this creature is from half an inch to 1 1/2 inches in thickness and very much resembles an elephant's hide, and not only bite it, but swallow it, and yet not suffer from indigestion.

Found One at Last. Thompson—I had a great surprise last evening. Darrow—How was that? Thompson—My wife introduced me to a fellow who never was one of her old beaux.—Cleveland Leader.

The Way of It. Arthur—I would marry that girl but for one thing. Chester—And that is to pop the question? Arthur—No. Afraid to question the pop.—Brooklyn Life.

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